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TO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE  
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6241

UNCLAS RIGA 000031

SIPDIS

STATE FOR STACY D. WILLIAMS, MELISSA ROSSER ON HAITI  
TASKFORCE ONE, USAID FOR MAURA O'NEILL

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [EAID](#) [ECON](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PREF](#) [LG](#) [HA](#)  
SUBJECT: LATVIAN HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI

REF: A. SECSTATE 4854  
[1](#)B. SECSTATE 4909

On January 19, we thanked MFA Political Director Peteris Ustubs for Latvia's contribution of 15,000 Euros (21,420 USD) to the United Nations emergency appeal for Haiti, announced January 18. (Ref A) We encouraged Dace Rutka, Head of the MFA Americas Division to ensure that the Latvian contribution was recorded and tracked via the UN Office of Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Financial Tracking System (FTS) and provided her with the relevant web addresses. (Ref B) Comment: While the Latvian contribution is small, it is notable given the massive economic downturn here (over 20% GDP loss in two years). Latvia has been forced to scale back its foreign assistance programs amid deep budget cuts and sharp tax hikes, but still contributes to high priority matters, such as Afghanistan.  
GARBER